The Knoll at Middlebury College

2024 Annual Report

This was a year of thriving: we were spared the worst of erratic weather events. Growing conditions were favorable and marked a return to more predictable patterns. The full vibrancy of campus life flourished as COVID restrictions faded from memory.

Our **Interns,** past and present, are the beating heart and guiding hands of the Knoll.

← Knoll Spring/Fall Interns facilitate Garden Volunteer Hours and support events during the academic year

Left to right: Sam Medina ’25, Charlotte Xu ’26.5, Sheila Camacho ’25, Lili Platt ’25, Mary Nagy-Benson ’24.5, Caitlin Sheen ’26.5, and Lucy Pollitt ‘26

Special thanks to Sheila Camacho, who served as our Knoll Events Intern, coordinating our team and the use of the space for many other groups on campus

Our Summer Interns → steward all Knoll work during their 15-week internship. All four continued in Fall ’24 as part of the intern team

Serving workshops, bouquet making, and pizza to help welcome 160 First@Midd participants, LA STEM Posse, and staff during Fall Orientation. Left to right: Sam Surks ’25.5, Changchang Ma ’26, Leslie Ramírez ’25, and Ryan Smith ‘25

2024 Program Highlights

Staffing funding was secured onto the College’s annual budget in December ’24 for 1.0 FTE Associate Director. This has been several years in the making, and we are grateful that this assurance is now in place for a permanent, full-time staff role for the Knoll.

Spring ’24 saw infrastructure failures – and then repairs! These included well pump replacement and a full replacement of all aspects of the hoophouse save the frame, including end walls, polyfilm skin, double wire lock purlins, and roll-up sides. We were also brought onto the College’s lightning detection and alarm system.

←Campus Farmers Collaborations: Taking turns hosting a three-week series of collaborative programming with UVM AX (Agroecology Extension) Fellows and the St. Michael's College Farm crew in our second year coming together for community-building, knowledge and program sharing

4 Raised Garden beds installed with help from the Disability Resource Center at Knoll and Prism Center for Queer and Trans Life →

This was our first year of hosting whole-Intern team weekly meetings in Hillcrest. These are vital for planning and information sharing throughout the busy academic year

On the Full Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024, we constructed a Germination Chamber outside of Hillcrest to care for our Early Spring seedlings. Knoll interns took turns watering and tending these tiny starts. Because we do not have electricity at the Knoll, or supplemental heating in the hoophouse, this needs to happen on campus

Connecting to our local context: Annual Hand Mowing Competition at Addison County Farm and Field Days + 4 workshops held at the Knoll (peening, mowing technique, hand-made hay rakes, and more) with special thanks to Michaela Stickney '84 and community members Anthony Parent and Danielle Rougeaux

Garden Volunteer Hours merrily continue the good work in their 22nd year. Highlights this year included welcoming three generations of volunteers during Fall Family Weekend, opening Friday afternoons with a somatic embodiment practice facilitated by Lili Platt '25, and so many cases of kale and chard to feed friends

For the second year, we joined forces with HOPE's regular gleaning schedule in the summer to combine on-farm learning opportunities with meaningful community-led effort. Here Changchang harvests kale at Old Road Farm in Granville, VT for HOPE's distribution in Middlebury. Receiving guests for one of the 17 uses of the wood-fired oven this year. Harvesting carrots as a part of a day-long Shelburne Farms field trip. We met with Director of Inclusion and Belonging, Yasamin Gordon, and worked and toured the farm and sugarworks with Market Garden staff and former Knoll Intern, Claire Contreras '23

KNOLL FRIENDS
3rd annual
END OF SEASON
HOT SAUCE**
** creative interpretation encouraged
TASTING + (friendly) competition
FRIDAY, NOV. 1, 2024
4-6 pm PALANA BASEMENT
TO ENTER
1. PICK UP PEPPERS IN THE HILLCREST FRIDGE + ENTRY FORM (S)
2. BRING YOUR CREATION TO PALANA ON NOV. 1 FOR TASTING!

Pungmul Korean drumming lesson with Professor Shelby Kimmel, rapid response removal of a new invasive on campus with horticulturalist Tim Parsons, and our Third Annual Hot Sauce Competition celebrating a fiery closing to the season with Knoll (고추) gochu peppers

The third annual Mid Autumn Harvest Festival (中秋节 in Chinese, お月見 in Japanese, 추석 in Korean, and Tết Trung Thu in Vietnamese) brought together the International Student Organization, Korean Student Association, Japanese Club, Vietnamese Students' Association, West Asian and North African Students Association, Radical Asians, PALANA House (Pan-African, Latinx, Asian, Native American), the Anderson Freeman Center, the Bobolinks, Stuck in the Middle, the Chinese and Japanese Departments, and local organization, Addison County BIPOC+ with over 600 attendees.

MID-AUTUMN
HARVEST FESTIVAL
at the Knoll
(rain location: CFA Lower Lobby)
sept 21 (sat). 2024 - 2-5pm
FEATURING...
woodfire pizza A Capella Korean Drumming mooncake
knoll produce taste test lantern making origami dango jeon
poetry Chè Đặc Biệt and more...
All are welcomed to come and bring loved ones from campus and community!
Student Orgs, Departments, and Partners:
The Knoll, ISO, KASA, J-Club, VSA, WANAS, RAISIN, PALANA, AFC, the Bobolinks, Stuck in the Middle, Addison County BIPOC +, Daechang Sun, Cassia Park, Chinese Department, Japanese Department, Prof. Kimmel

We had brilliant Blog and Instagram storytelling by interns Sam Surks ’25.5, Lesie Ramírez ’25, and Sheila Camacho ’25.

We’d love to highlight, in particular, Sam’s blog reflections – check this one out: https://middfarm.wordpress.com/2024/11/02/lists-of-season-ending-gratitude/

And beautifully detailed Instagram accounts on a weekly basis to help bring others into our Knoll learning journeys and community thanks to Leslie in summer, and Sheila during the fall. Here’s a sampler:

middknoll
Addison County Fair and Field Days

middknoll Ready... Set... MOW!

This Thursday we set out to the annual Addison County Fair and Field Days! We volunteered and competed in the Hand-Mowing competition which saw its largest competition in years!!

The Knoll crew assisted in time keeping, measuring of swath (width of grass cut) per competitor, and raking of weed. It was a long day in the sun but it was a day of celebration in the name of scything, good competitive spirit, and community.

We want to thank Michaela, Danielle and Tony for their time and expertise this summer as they have shown their love and dedication to the art of hand-mowing. Best scythe school instructors ever! ❤️

Following the hand-mowing competition we set out to the fair grounds and enjoyed all that a fair must offer – turkey legs and yummy italian subs. We will be back soon. AND! Past Knoll Summer intern Caroline tagged along for the day reporting on behalf of the Addison Independent. Be sure to check out her detailed reporting on various days of the fair in the coming editions of the newspaper 🗒️

Edited · 26w

View insights Boost post

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middknoll Middlebury Summer Market: Non-Profit Organization Expo
We were honored to attend this special edition of the weekly summer market! Surrounded by other wonderful booths, we offered an array of cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots, radishes and more We assembled cucumber, hakurai turnip, and nasturtium flower sandwiches — Lemon juice and tajín were offered to be paired with to-go salads as a nice refreshing snack as we approached noon — And we even offered cherry jam made by Changchang!
Freshly picked harvest was displayed alongside spearmint, statice and calendula
Much was done in anticipation and preparation for this special Saturday morning. From Ryan's cucumber harvest to Sam and Changchang washing the produce and even Leslie's painting of the banner. Today, many people stopped by and told us of their wanders into the garden and deep appreciation for the space. We welcomed them all to come again and enjoy the morning dew, the afternoon breeze or evening sunset
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THE KNOLL
COLLEGE ORGANIC GARDEN
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Leslie, Sam, and Sheila's stories all speak for themselves – please check them out!

We welcomed Rebecca Maden of UVM Extension and Singing Cedars Farm to facilitate a workshop on soil health and soil sample collection

We continue to partner with the Cornwall Elementary 3rd grade for their 4x/fall weekly garden days. Cornwall third graders help sow cover crops, harvest, taste test, thresh and sort beans, and more with the wise guidance of Cornwall teacher Mindy Harvey '13

We were grateful to welcome colleagues from Middlebury Schools Abroad partner International Christian University in Tokyo, and the ICU Foundation (NYC) to share about the Knoll as they develop their own gardening program and site. Their staff harvested, washed, packed, and delivered produce with us as a part of their exploration of campus farming programs

We were excited to facilitate Knoll interns' training to become certified to drive the ADA-accessible Midd Rides van to ensure that we have drivers and vehicles available to meet groups' access needs to the Knoll

See below for a full list of co-programming and other events.

The Knoll in 2024 by the Numbers:

245 volunteers aged 8 through 78 brought their willing hands and hearts to garden with us

185 students in **7** classes attended class at least once at the Knoll

2,624 people attended **146** events ranging from classes or a campfire held at the Knoll to garden volunteer hours. **25%** of those events were led or hosted by BIPOC; many were held as BIPOC affinity spaces

15 Class meetings were held at the Knoll

- ENVS 112: The Science of Environmental Systems – 4 sections, Spring '24
- ENVS 112: The Science of Environmental Systems – 4 sections of Carrot Experiment Lab Fall '24
- ABEN 2104: Abenaki Language School - Summer '24
- EDST 0206: Environmental Education – recurring, Fall '24
- ANTH 0125: Language Structure and Function – Fall '24 campfire bread baking
- FYSE 1082: Urban Nature: The Ecology of Cities – Fall '24
- ART 0396: Origins of Photography: Shooting Film - Fall '24

110 (at least) missed visitor opportunities canceled due to weather and lack of appropriate shelter

81 unique opportunities to volunteer in the garden

1,690 hours of worked by **4** summer interns in summer. (All four continued on for fall)

15 unique campus student organizations and departments coordinated by Changchang Ma '26 to host **600+** people at our **third annual** Mid-Autumn Harvest Festival

8 campfires and **17** times we fired up the Wood-fired Oven in the Outdoor Kitchen for **85** hours of deliciousness

50 participants in Michaela Stickney '84's two Hand Mowing demonstrations during Reunion '24 sharing the ancient graceful art of using a scythe

785 students reached via non-Knoll hosted campus event support and outreach by the Knoll team

19 field trips to neighboring farms and farm events + speakers brought to campus

1,317 pounds of produce we grew and donated to HOPE (winter squash, chard, carrots, mixed veggies, green beans, kale, tomatoes, bok choy, tomatillos, beets, and more). HOPE directly distributes and also redistributes to the following sites: Parent Child Center, Mary Johnson Children's Center, Open Door Clinic, New Community Project, New Haven Community Library, Otter Creek Child Care, Platt Memorial Library, Salisbury Free Public Library, SASH Program at Armory Lane, Vergennes Food Shelf

50 cases of kale and chard delivered to Midd Dining

50 pounds of kkakdugi radish kimchi made by Cassia Park '24.5 in October '24

Gratitude

- To everyone who has held on to some of the Knoll's soil through its myriad phase, physical, chemical, and metaphysical changes, past, present and future – as eaters, revelers, wheelbarrow pushers, pruners, broadfork wielders, sign installers, portapotty sweepers, event coordinators, facilitators, prospective students, passers-by, and more: Thank you. Thank you for the care you bring in so many forms, mostly humble, quiet and unseen. Places like the Knoll do not exist by accident, and we have all made something beautiful and wonderful out there. Thank you.
- The Knoll benefits hugely from being part of the Sustainability and Environmental Affairs team (Jack Byrne, Sophia Calvi, Janet Wiseman, Minna Brown, Tara Federoff, and formerly, Andrés Oyaga) at the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest. Special thanks to Janet Wiseman for tirelessly reconciling all of the Knoll's financial expenditures, invoices, and purchasing while also supporting our student employment; to Minna Brown and the Climate Action Program for invaluable financial and mentoring support for shared student endeavors and opportunities
- Thanks to former Knoll intern Andrés Oyaga as he departed his role with the Climate Action Program for his tireless will to thread the Knoll into and amongst our broader BIPOC agricultural communities near and far, and to advance the work of agroecology in the region
- Thanks to Sophia Calvi who is departed Middlebury College this year and has been connected to the garden for 20+ years. Sophia saw many changes in the structure of the College and helped usher the Knoll into Academic Affairs, helping make sure the Knoll has been a prominent fixture of Middlebury College and has stayed connected to Cornwall Elementary School. In collaboration with the Scott Center, the labyrinth remains a legacy of Sophia's time at the Knoll. We wish her well as she embarks on a different course
- John Derick and Jay Leshinsky continue to provide reliable insight, technical advice and know-how, and on-the-ground updates and hands in the soil and eyes on our infrastructure as they have since the beginning. Story keepers like John and Jay hold the meaningfulness of what happens at the Garden and function as our mycelial network that not only help us feel intergenerationally connected beyond our immediate campus community, but also enable rapid response to urgent needs like a failed well pump in April or a washed out driveway after a flood
- The family, friends, and community of Will O'Neal '20, our hearts and hands are honored to tend the soil that holds Will's laughter and love. We are grateful for the outpouring of generosity to the Knoll in his memory
- To the many alumni, far and wide, and the friends, family, and loved ones you hold dear and bring with you to the Knoll: thank you for all that you continue to share with the Knoll
- To all of our community partners, without whom our work would stagnate in isolation and just be a sweet little campus project: THANK YOU. We hope that by staying connected, the reciprocal flow of energy, hands, love, and fresh takes can continue to nourish this place, and all of us that we yearn to know and that we hold so dear

Recommendations

- Additional professional staffing support (additional student wages and the creation of a Knoll Assistant Director role) would enable deeper academic connections and better integration across campus. With only one professional staff responsible for such a wide array of tasks[1] rooted in the physical grounds, weather, safety, there is undue time-sensitive, often urgent burdens that fall to

[1] Please see the Knoll GANTT Chart that provides an overview of actual tasks; this provides insight into existing responsibilities

them that greatly limit collaboration. It is incredible what we are able to collectively support given the limitation of one full-time staff person. While she is quite capable, this is far from sustainable[2]
    - Top priority areas that would be addressed with additional professional staffing:
        - Strategic integration with faculty for better academic connection (e.g., annual Fall Welcome New Faculty cohorts pizza making at the Knoll; potential collaboration with Engaged Listening Project and the Partner Inclusion Program) – and the actual capacity to follow up on relationship building and curricular support
        - Infrastructure improvements and planning with Facilities for improvements around physical accessibility and food safety
        - Furtherance of the College's stated commitments at the Knoll around the Land Acknowledgement
        - Furtherance of the College's commitments to Climate Action around sustainable food purchasing, and Food System Resilience anticipating disaster mitigation[3]
- Additional wages to support increased student staffing
    - Top priority areas that would be addressed with additional student staffing:
        - Winter Hiring Committee Process: since 2021, Knoll Interns are trained and help lead the hiring process for our incoming teams with a particular focus on skills, dispositions, and awarenesses that will equip our team. We ensure alignment and intentionality with the hiring process (application, interviews, facilitation, feedback delivery) that promote best practices, accountability, and transparency: key skills that promote democratic leadership and also provide opportunities for consideration of, and reflection on, how power is conveyed and how paid positions may be best utilized
        - Increased student leadership: The garden is mostly powered by volunteer effort. If our mission is to empower students to hold the Knoll regardless of their prior farming experience (which is just one highly teachable aspect of their responsibilities), then there are understandable lag times in terms of students' abilities to run key garden work times. By being able to retain former trained interns into a tiered system of responsibilities and roles, we would deeply empower and enable student development in alignment with the Knoll and the College's equity goals. All good work takes time, and we have built strong systems and durable relationships that students feel empowered to stay in, and take real leadership of. We seek to honor this deep peer leadership and facilitation
- Infrastructure improvement: specifically, a large three-season shelter that provides for reliable shade and shelter from inclement weather to meet the diverse needs of the varied populations, accessibility considerations, and program functions. This would include solar electricity, restrooms, and a wash/pack station to provide reliable potable water
    - This would also ease pressure on colleagues and campus groups to devise full alternate sets of plans for events at the Knoll in inclement weather
- Parking Area with enhanced and safer public access to the Knoll, as well as the Trail Around Middlebury
- Lands and Strategic Planning connecting the Knoll holistically to Middlebury College. The Knoll acts as an anchor for the identity of Middlebury College, yet there is a lack of alignment with how it is resourced and what its real potential could be

[2] 2024 closes the second of a three-year commitment for Megan as a Middlebury College appointee to the Porter Medical Center Board of Directors which includes committee responsibilities for the UVM Health Network. Megan is eager to support other College-wide initiatives but capacity is limited at this time

[3] The VT Farm to Plate Food Security Roadmap to 2035 provides a useful framework: https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/resources/vermont-food-security-roadmap-2035

- As Roger and Patty Scholten retire and close their 30 year lease on the surrounding farmland, by which the Knoll is surrounded on all sides (and bisected by the Trail Around Middlebury), we seek to ensure that the land stays in Organic Certification as it has been since 2007)
- We are eager to maintain strong working relationships with the incoming lessees of the College-owned farmlands knowing that we share audiences/users, borders, right of ways, and air- and watersheds and we recognize (as did Robert Frost) the deep value in neighborly connection[4]

List of Events and Collaborations

2024 EVENTS & CLASSES HELD AT THE KNOLL

~~Strikethrough~~ indicates event cancellation due to weather

Event Count	Date	Event Planners	2024 Events at Knoll	# attend
1	Friday, Mar 29	Knoll, Jeannie Bartlett '15	Tree Pruning Workshop with Jeannie Bartlett '15	8
2	~~Friday, Apr 12~~	~~Knoll~~	~~Knoll Friends Thank You Pizza~~	~~40~~
3	~~Saturday, Apr 13~~	~~Juntos~~	~~Mariposas and Migration Stories~~	~~15~~
4	Sunday, Apr 14	Community Friends, Knoll, Sheila	Community Friends Picnic, Games	40
5	Friday, Apr 19	Bingham (Cornwall) Elementary (Teacher Mindy Harvey '13)	Cornwall 3rd Graders Spring Return to Garden	18
6	Friday, Apr 19	Midd FIRE (Fostering Inclusive Recreation Experiences)	Midd FIRE BIPOC Affinity Pizza Making	20
7	Saturday, Apr 20	Knoll	Knoll Intern Pizza Oven Training	10
8	Friday, Apr 26	Knoll, Becky Maden (UVM Extension)	Soil Sampling Intro and Methods with Becky Maden	10
9	Friday, Apr 26	Knoll, Advancement	Tour requested by Advancement	
10	Sunday, Apr 28	Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG), Knoll	SNEG Pizza Party	20
11	Friday, May 3	PALANA (Pan African, Latinx, Asian, Native American +) House, Knoll	PALANA Pizza Making Party	40
12	Saturday, May 4	Knoll, Middlebury Football Team (Pride Group)	Green Up Day Volunteering	14
13	Sunday May 5th	Yellow House Community Club, Yellow House	Yellow House Picnic	10
14	Sunday, May 5	Architecture Table	Architecture Table Paint and Sip	20
15	~~Sunday, May 5~~	~~Muslim Students' Association~~	~~MSA senior Send off~~	~~15~~
	Monday, May 6	Knoll, Center for Community Engagement	CCE Staff Retreat Volunteering at Knoll + Disability Resources	14
16 - 19	5/7, 5/8, 5/9, 5/10	ENVS 112: the Science of Environmental Systems, Monica Pryzperhart	ENVS 112 Lab Group Knoll Visit	48
20	~~Friday May 10th~~	~~Anderson Freeman Center Fellows, Tanya Chen, Knoll~~	~~AFC AAPI Month Potluck Gathering~~	~~40~~
21	Friday, May 10	Scott Center, New Perennials, Knoll, Mishka Banuri	MSA + Scott Center	10
22	Friday, May 10	Women of Color, Knoll	WOC Pizza Party	20

[4]See "A Time to Talk" by Robert Frost: https://poets.org/poem/time-talk

23	Monday, May 13	Knoll Friends	Knoll Friends Thank You Pizza	50
24	Tuesday, May 14	Climate Action Fellowship	Climate Action Fellowship - Final meeting	15
25	Wednesday, May 22	Knoll, VT Releaf Collective	Pizza Party run-through Prep with VT Releaf Collective	8
	May 31	Knoll, Admissions	Admissions Fellows: tour and Garden Volunteering	6
26	Thursday, Jun 6	Knoll, Alumni & Parent Programs	50th Reunion ('73) - Group is meeting at Forest Lawn and will walk down together	40
27	Friday, Jun 7	Knoll, Alumni & Parent Programs	"Stroll the Knoll" drop by - welcome visitors	50
28	Friday, Jun 7	Knoll, Alumni & Parent Programs, Michaela Stickney '84	Scything Workshop with Michaela Stickney (1 of 2)	20
29	Saturday, Jun 8	Knoll, Alumni & Parent Programs	Knoll Reunion Open House	200
30	Saturday, Jun 8	Knoll, Alumni & Parent Programs, Michaela Stickney '84	Scything Workshop with Michaela Stickney (2 of 2)	26
31	Thursday, Jun 13	Knoll, Bill Vitek	Bill Vitek (New Perennials) visit with Knoll Interns	6
32	Friday, Jun 14	Knoll, Dan Kane '09	Dan Kane (Yale, Mad Agriculture) visit with Knoll Interns	6
33	Friday, Jun 14	Natasha Ngaiza, David Miranda-Hardy, Knoll	Filming session for Proof of Concept "A Peculiar Freedom"	0
34	Saturday, Jun 15	Knoll, VT Releaf Collective	VT Releaf Collective Pizza Event	15
35	Monday, Jun 17	Knoll, Marc Lapin	Marc Lapin (College Lands, ENVS) visit with Knoll Interns	6
36	Monday, Jul 1	Knoll, Deirdre Kelly (Disability Resource Center)	Deirdre Kelly visit with Knoll Interns	6
37	Sunday, Jul 7	School of Hebrew Lifelong Learners Program	School of Hebrew Lifelong Learners Program at Knoll	20
38	Sunday, Jul 7	School of Abenaki	School of Abenaki Longhouse Project Day	30
39	Tuesday, Jul 9	Karen Nordstrom, Emily Hoyler, Vic Izzo (UVM Agroecology Fellows Program) Christine Gall, Kristyn Achilich (St. Michael's College Farm) Andrés Oyaga and Mollie Wills (Rural Vermont) ACORN Food Hub Staff + Interns	Campus Farmers Collaborative at Knoll (Knoll hosted the first day of a series of three at our different campus farms)	30
40	Thursday, Jul 25	School of Hebrew Lifelong Learners Program	Knoll Visit	20
41	Monday, Aug 5	Knoll, Michaela Stickney '84	Hand Mowing Comp Prep and Training	6
42	Tuesday, Aug 13	Knoll, Laurel Jenkins (Dance Dept)	Movement Practice with Laurel Jenkins at Knoll	6
43	Tues 8/20	Knoll, Disability Resource Center, OIDEI, SEA	Welcoming Pizza Making Lunch for new AVP for OIDEI Kristin Hocker	20
44	Wednesday, Aug 21	Knoll, Facilities Management Team	Thank You Pizza with Facilities Friends	30

45	Wednesday, Aug 21	Knoll, Middlebury Football Team (Pride Group)	Football Team Garden Volunteering	10
46	Friday, Aug 23	International Student and Scholar Services	ISSS PALS Orientation Training + Dinner + Campfire	40
47	Monday, Aug 26	Knoll, Leslie Ramirez (CCI, Knoll Intern)	Career Development Conversation + Resume Review	6
48	Friday, Aug 30	Knoll, Anderson Freeman Center/First@Midd, Posse	First@Midd Pizza Party Celebration, Bouquet Making, Garden Taste Tests	160
49	Sunday, Sep 1	Knoll, International Student and Scholar Services	The Knoll Experience with ISSS pre-orientation	100
50-53	**9/4, 9/11, 9/18, 9/25**	Knoll, Bingham (Cornwall) Elementary (Teacher Mindy Harvey '13)	Cornwall 3rd Graders volunteer in garden, hold their weekly full-day Knoll visit (four days in total)	25
54	Friday, Sep 6	Health and Wellness Education	HWE Peer Counselors final Campfire Gather	12
55	Saturday, Sep 7	Knoll, Orientation	First-Year Orientation Half Day Event: Garden Volunteering and Welcome to Middlebury!	40
56	Monday, Sep 9	Climate Action Fellowship	Climate Action Fellowship Opening Meeting	21
57-60	**9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2**	Tracy Weston, EDST 206	EDST 206: Environmental Education weekly fall class held at Knoll (15 students)	15
61	Friday, Nov 8	ANTH 0125: Language Structure and Function (Marybeth Nevins), Knoll	Class: Bread baking over the campfire	25
62	Friday, Sep 13	Knoll	Knoll Friends Thank You Pizza	40
63	Saturday, Sep 21	Knoll Midd Intercultural Leaders Coalition (MILC); Anderson Freeman Center (AFC); International Students Organization (ISO); Korean American Students Association (KASA); Japanese Club (J-Club); Vietnamese Students' Association (VSA); West Asian and North African Students (WANAS); PALANA House; The Bobolinks A Capella; Stuck in the Middle A Capella; Addison County BIPOC+ Chinese Department Japanese Department Samulnori Drumming (Shelby Kimmel) (Lead coordinator: Changchang Ma)	Mid-Autumn Harvest Festival* Pizza, Lantern making, origami, dango, music, traditional food samples, nature-based art with Knoll-grown materia, cooking demonstrations, Samulnori (Korean drumming) performance and workshop * the Mid-Autumn Harvest Festival is a major national holiday throughout East/SE Asia and there are few if any other large gatherings of this sort in the state	600
64	Tuesday, Sep 24	Samantha Rothberg (Counseling), Anna Hand (Health and Wellness Education)	Build a Bouquet for Recovery Month	15
65	Friday, Sep 27	Knoll, Alumni & Parent Programs	Garden Volunteer Hours for families on Friday	50
66	Saturday, Sep 28	Knoll, Alumni & Parent Programs	Fall Family Weekend - garden tours	50
67	Wednesday, Oct 2	Knoll, HOPE	Anna Freund of HOPE (Addison Count Food Shelf) Fall Squash	15

			Harvest Pickup	
68	Wednesday, Oct 2	FYSE 1082 (Prof. Eric Moody), Megan	FYSE 1082: Urban Nature Class visit	16
69	Thursday, Oct 3	Knoll, VT Agency of Ag, Food and Markets (VFAAM)	VT Secretary Anson Tebbets visits Garden Volunteer Hours, talks with Knoll students	10
70	Friday, Oct 4	Disability Resource Center, Prism Center, student organizers, Knoll	Flower Mandala and Honoring Community Grief	20
71	Saturday, Oct 5	Knoll, EcoReps	Knoll Service Day X EcoReps	4
72	Tuesday, Oct 8	Knoll, Japanese Department, International Christian University, ICU Foundation (NYC)	International Christian Univ (ICU) Visit: Volunteering, Produce Delivery, Luncheon	8
73-76	**10/15, 10/16, 10/17, 10/18**	Knoll, ENVS 112: The Science of Environmental Systems	ENVS 112 Carrot Lab: Knoll intro, digging carrots, data collection	48
77	Thursday Oct. 17th	PALANA House	PALANA House Campfire and S'mores	20
78	Friday Oct. 18th	Questbridge, Knoll	Questbridge Campfire	20
79	Saturday Oct 19th	Posse, Crystal Jones, Knoll	Crystal's Posse's Campfire	11
80	Saturday, Oct 19	Midd FIRE (Fostering Inclusive Recreation Experiences)	Midd FIRE BIPOC Affinity Pizza Making	30
81	Friday, Nov 1	Knoll, PALANA House - due to weather held at PALANA House	Hot Sauce Friendly Competition and Tasting	50
81-105	**April 1 - May 13**	Knoll	Spring Weekly Garden Volunteer Hours **4 times each week**, 2 hours at a time **(6 weeks)**	
106-113	**June 12 - July 31**	Knoll, Sustainability & Enviro Affairs Summer Cohort	Summer Weekly Wednesday Work Parties **1 time each week**, 2 hours at a time (8 weeks)	20
114-146	**Sept 9 - Nov 1**	Knoll	Fall Weekly Garden Volunteer Hours **4 times each week,** 2 hours at a time **(8 weeks)**	245
146	**TOTAL EVENT COUNT**	**Everyone**	**estimated Annual headcount at all Events/Offerings at Knoll**	**2,624**
	estimated number of missed opportunities in event attendance count (canceled due to weather)			**110**

2024 OTHER CAMPUS EVENT SUPPORT & OUTREACH BY KNOLL TEAM

Date	Event Planners	Location	Event	# attend
4/6/2024	Prism Center, Knoll	Prism Center	Prism Center Grand Opening - Parking lot help	100
5/8/2024	Anderson Freeman Center, Addison County BIPOC+, Knoll	AFC	Dumpling Wrapping at AFC - AAPI affinity space; Knoll produce	40

6/18/2024	Tim Parsons, Monica Pryzperhart, Sustainability Solutions Lab Intern	Main Campus	4am Bird Survey for Campus Re-Wilding Project Day 1/2	12
6/25/2024	Tim Parsons, Monica Pryzperhart, Sustainability Solutions Lab Intern	Main Campus	4am Bird Survey for Campus Re-Wilding Project Day 2/2	8
8/23/2024	Orientation, Knoll	McCullough, Wilson Hall	Orientation Leader Training - 15 min Presentation about the Knoll	100
8/27/2024	Climate Action Fellow/ACORN Intern Bailey Walker	Sunderland, Dana Auditorium	Farming While Black Screening, Panel, Tabling	60
8/29/2024	Derisa, F@Midd	Johnson	F@M Resource Fair	200
9/4/2024	Health and Wellness Education, SEA team	McCullough Lawn / Atwater Dining	Tabling at the Self Care Fair	100
9/10/2024	Sustainability & Enviro Affairs	Hillcrest	SEA Fall Welcome Back Social and Summer Poster Session	50
OCTOBER	Knoll, Olga Sanchez Saltveit, Dia de los Muertos	Various	Dia de los Muertos cempasuchil harvests, stringing, delivery to AFC	100
11/2/2024	Knoll Interns	Self Reliance Solar Decathalon House	Knoll Intern end of Season Feast	15
			Total Reach	**785**

2024 FIELD TRIPS including OTHER CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES for KNOLL TEAM

Count	Date	Field Trip Location	Attendees
1	6/20	Johnson Maker Space/Woodshop Studio	7
2	6/20	Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale at FECH for SEA Summer Cohort Speaker Series	20
3	7/5	Footprint Farm in Starksboro (HOPE Glean)	5
4	7/11	Burlington Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanek at FECH for SEA Summer Cohort Speaker Series	20
5	7/12	Old Road Farm (HOPE Glean)	5
6	7/16	UVM Horticulture Research and Education Center (Catamount Farm)	30
7	7/23	St Michael's College Campus Farm	30
8	7/29	Old Road Farm (HOPE Glean)	5
9	7/30	Soul Fire Farm	6
10	8/7	Understory Farm	5
11	8/8	Addison Cty Farm & Field Days Hand Mowing Competition Volunteering and Compete	4
12	8/9	Firefly Fields Farm (HOPE Glean)	5
13	8/10	Midd Summer Market - Tabling for Saturday Nonprofit Market	50
14	8/14	Blue Ledge Farm	5

15	8/15	Elderly Services College: Jay Leshinsky and Megan Brakeley Knoll Presentation at Congregational Church	20
16	8/27	Shelburne Farms	5
17	8/28	Tree Tour with Tim Parsons (main campus)	5
18	11/20	Killington Grand Resort then Bridgewater Corners for overnight and back for two days of conference	4
19	2/15	NOFA-VT Annual Winter Conference with Climate Action Program	20

A note from Megan Brakeley '06, associate director of the Knoll:

Reading the Soul Fire Farm Food Sovereignty Action Steps document passed on by former Knoll Intern, Hayley Fenton '26 helps frame our work at the Knoll. Rooted in the idea that Middlebury College, as an institute of higher education, is here to serve as a tool for social mobility and to

> "create a transformative learning experience for our students, built from a strong foundation in the liberal arts and supported within an inclusive, residential environment. We not only inspire our undergraduates to grapple with challenging questions about themselves and the world, but we also foster the inquiry, equity, and agency necessary for them to practice ethical citizenship at home and far beyond our Vermont campus."

Then it follows that we would work to address the vast disparities in our food system with the Knoll as a living laboratory and place to hold us in relationship; the Food Sovereignty Action Steps offer concrete and noble aims for our humble Knoll.

2024 was a season of healing and restoration in terms of how we felt the local impacts of climate change: the weather was more mild and predictable; rains were for the most part consistent and gentle (if not dry during the end of the season, which can be beneficial for drying down shelling beans, field curing squash, and reducing the rate of spread for fungal and bacterial disease). We hold this in contrast to 2023, which saw major weather events and continual disruptions of natural patterns, which require a mindset of constant adaptation. As gardeners, as humble agents acting in response to close observation of current conditions, we prize flexible thinking, adaptive management, and honing the practical skills of resilience in the garden. However, staying in "adaptive mode" is exhausting to sustain and thoroughly puts to the test communication, democratic or sociocratic decision-making practices, and the trust required to have functional working relationships that do not rely on power or hierarchy. It was a relief to not have to adjust plans, including the vast array of event plans that the Knoll supports, every day.

There's little that has not been shared brilliantly and beautifully by this year's Knoll intern crew on our blog, www.go.middlebury.edu/knollblog, and Instagram accounts for real-time sharing and reflection in full color. Special thanks to Sam Surks, Leslie Ramírez, and Sheila Camacho for their love made manifest there.

Thank you to all who continue to advocate for the Knoll, who take the extra moment pause and appreciate the layers of love and care in the place, and offer up their hands and time as well. It is our honor to partner together and connect across the garden beds.

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Prepared by Megan Brakeley '06 | draft 12/19/2024, final 2/10/2025

Middlebury, VT USA